

[REDACTED] STAT

7 DEC 1977

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Statement of AFIO President, with concurrence of the Board

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Against the background of the spate of stories circulating on the rationale for and impact of the impending reduction in CIA's Directorate of Operations, the AFIO President sought a meeting with a Senior Agency representative to elicit the basic facts. Admiral Turner and John Blake (Acting Deputy Director) received me on 18 November.

The Admiral assured me that the reduction represented no change in philosophy as to the importance of human intelligence in the overall scheme of things, that its role was recognized to be as vital as ever. He explained that the reductions in the Operations Directorate structure were concentrated almost exclusively in the headquarters element (only [REDACTED] overseas positions are to be eliminated), with the objective of developing a more streamlined, responsive and professionally challenged staff. He further stated that the reduction was an Agency initiative, not mandated by any external authority; and that, in large measure, it conforms to a plan conceived in the Operations Directorate itself prior to the Admiral's appointment. The essential difference is that whereas the original plan was to reduce the size of that Directorate by some [REDACTED] positions over six years (with minimum "people" impact), the decision was to eliminate [REDACTED] professional and semi-professional positions prior to the 1978, with none planned after that date. Parenthetically, the doubling of rate of reduction heightens the "people" impact. The Agency strength will not be reduced correspondingly as substantial new requirements exist elsewhere in the organization.